IN THE CLAIMS

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~~51~~. (Twice Amended) An article comprising:

a machine readable storage medium storing instructions comprising a device manager and power management software, said power management software, if executed by a system, performs operations comprising said power management software:

cooperates with said device manager to allow power management of a plurality of devices in the system which are configurable devices; and

manages a power level for each of the plurality of devices in the system and is capable of placing one or more of said plurality of devices in a reduced power consumption state.

57. (Once Amended) An article comprising:

a machine readable storage medium storing instructions comprising power management software, said instructions, if executed by a system cause said system to perform operations comprising:

allowing power management of a plurality of devices in the system which are configurable devices; and

managing a power level for each of the plurality of devices in the

system, said power management software being capable of placing one or more of said plurality of devices in a reduced power consumption state, wherein said power management software, if executed, provides support for idle detection for at least one of said plurality of devices.

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63. (Once Amended) The article of claim 51 wherein said power management software performs power management for said plurality of devices and lacks a permanent tie to a specific hardware device in the system.

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64. (Once Amended) An article comprising:

a machine readable storage medium storing power management software which, if executed by a system, performs operations comprising said power management software:

coordinates power management for a plurality of devices; and

registers with a configuration manager to be notified of configuration changes for any of said plurality of devices.

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70. (Once Amended) An article comprising:

a computer readable storage medium storing power management software comprising a power manager and additional software which is operating system software, the power management software, if executed by a

computer, performs operations comprising said power management software:

forms a part of a kernel level of an operating system for the computer;

cooperates with a device manager to allow power management of a plurality of system devices after reconfiguration of said plurality of system devices; and

manages a power level of the computer.

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~~73~~. (Twice Amended) An article comprising:

a computer readable medium storing a plurality of computer executable instructions including power management software and additional software to implement an operating system, the power management software, if executed by a computer system, operates in an operating system cooperative manner with said operating system at a kernel level which is a highest privilege level of the operating system, and causes the computer system to perform operations comprising:

providing support for device idle detection for an input/output device in said computer system to determine when said input/output device has been inactive for a first duration, the first duration being a user configurable duration that may be varied based on desired power savings using a graphical user interface;

placing said input/output device in a reduced power consumption state if said input/output device has been inactive for the first duration;

cooperating with a plug and play manager that, in cooperation with said power management software, allows power management of said input/output device even though said input/output device is a plug and play configurable device;

providing support for system level power management by monitoring global events;

placing said computer system into one of a plurality of system level power management states as a part of system level power management implemented by said power management software, one of said plurality of system level power management states being a sleep state into which the computer system is placed due to the system remaining idle.